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## **Sen. Stamas joined by Lunsford on final push for legislation to protect children**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Tony Stamas and other legislative Republicans joined Mark Lunsford at a news conference Tuesday to support legislation that would help protect children across Michigan from sexual predators.

Lunsford is the father of Jessica Lunsford, a 9-year-old Florida girl who was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a convicted sex offender.

“I want Michigan to pass something through because it sends a message to sexual predators ‘Don’t mess with Michigan,’” Lunsford said. “I want Michigan to be one of the first states to pass tough legislation. How do we justify it to our kids that we let these guys out? We need to show our kids how much power we have and protect them.”

Senate lawmakers are working on legislation allowing certain repeat sex offenders who target children to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

“We need to make sure that sexual predators that prey on children are behind bars where they belong,” said Stamas, R-Midland. “I’m glad to be working closely with the House to help make sure Michigan children are safe.”

Sponsored by Stamas, Senate Bill 709 (along with SBs 717 and 718) would require repeat offenders convicted of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree to serve a life sentence without a chance of parole if their victims were under the age of 13.

The House of Representatives has been working on Michigan’s version of “Jessica’s Law” which would provide a minimum of 25 years in prison with lifetime parole for anyone 17 years of age or older convicted of sexually assaulting a child under the age of 13.

HBs 5531 through 5533 include further monitoring of convicted sexual predators through real-time GPS tracking.

(More)

Editor's note: The Senate Committee on Judiciary is expected to approve Michigan's version of Jessica's Law today.

The House of Representatives is expected to pass SBs 709, 717 and 718 later today.

A photo of Sen. Stamas and Mark Lunsford at the news conference is available on the Senate Majority Photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm>

Audio of Sen. Stamas is also available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/stamas/index.htm>